

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 13, 15 to 17, 21, 27 and 33 to 44 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 7 and 13 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 36, 37, 39, 40, 42 and 43 are objected to for alleged informalities. Without conceding the correctness of the objection, Applicant respectfully submits that the foregoing amendments to the claims corrected the alleged informalities. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this objection.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 21, 27 and 33 to 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 7,159,190 (Perry). Claims 5 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 7,159,190 (Perry) and further in view of Allegedly Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). Claims 15, 21 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over (Perry) U.S. Pat. No. 6,724,492 (Iwase). Claims 36 to 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over (Perry) in further view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,621,590 (Livingston). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

The present claims concern setting printer settings by a printer control apparatus using an entire setting screen to set an entire print attribute to be applied to the entire print data and a partial setting screen to set a partial print attribute to be applied to a part of the print data, wherein the partial setting screen is a screen in which the entire print attribute is reflected. In one aspect, the partial setting screen displays an entire setting screen to set an entire print attribute to be applied to the entire print data and then displays a partial setting screen including (i) a first designation field to set a partial print attribute to be applied to a part of the print data, and

(ii) a second designation field to designate a page as the part of the print data to which the partial print attribute is applied. Since an initial value of the first designation field in the partial setting screen indicates that a print attribute the same as the entire print attribute is already set, it is not required that the user reenter partial attributes which are the same values as for the entire print setting.

Turning to specific claim language, independent Claim 1 is directed to a printing control method executed in an information processing apparatus which has a printer driver to generate print data which a printing apparatus can process. The method includes: a first displaying step of displaying an entire setting screen to set an entire print attribute to be applied to the entire print data; a second displaying step of displaying a partial setting screen including (i) a first designation field to set a partial print attribute to be applied to a part of the print data, (ii) a second designation field to designate a page as the part of the print data to which the partial print attribute is applied, wherein an initial value of the first designation field in the partial setting screen indicates that a print attribute same as the entire print attribute is set; and a generating step of generating the print data to print a print material in which the entire print attribute and the partial print attribute are reflected.

Applicant respectfully submits that the applied reference, namely Perry, is not seen to disclose or to suggest all of the features of independent Claim 1. In particular, Perry is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of the second displaying step of Claim 1. The second displaying step displays a partial setting screen including (i) a first designation field to set a partial print attribute to be applied to a part of the print data, (ii) a second designation field to designate a page as the part of the print data to which the partial print attribute is applied,

wherein an initial value of the first designation field in the partial setting screen indicates that a print attribute same as the entire print attribute is set.

In the Office Action, it is asserted that Figs. 6A to 6D of Perry disclose such a second displaying step. Applicant respectfully disagrees on the following grounds.

As disclosed by Perry, Figs. 6A to 6D are exemplary displays of a print job exceptions attributes window 406 that can be used to edit print job exceptions attributes. As illustrated in FIG. 6A of Perry, a user can access the second exception page template 317 that allows editing of specific print job exceptions attributes by selecting tabs 318 to 321 on the template 317. The second exception page template 317 can include various tabs with labels that identify the print job exceptions attributes for a selected print job identification number or print job name. For example, the second exception page template 317 in FIG. 6A provides tabs that include attributes such as stock 318, output 319, image quality 310 and image edit 321. Fig. 6A illustrates selection of stock tab 318, Fig. 6B, selecting an image quality tab 320, Fig. 6C illustrates selection of an output tab 319, and Fig. 6D illustrates selection of an edit tab 321. (See Perry column 7, lines 18 to 45.)

In the Office Action, it is contended that Figs. 6A to 6D of Perry show the result of processing that is the same as the processing executed in the second displaying step of the present claims. Applicant submits that Figs 6A to 6D simply illustrate a single step of designating various attributes of a print job and do not disclose or suggest a second displaying step as featured in the present claims. Specifically, the cited figures of Perry fail to disclose displaying a partial setting screen including (i) a first designation field to set a partial print attribute to be applied to a part of the print data, (ii) a second designation field to designate a page as the part of the print data to which the partial print attribute is applied, wherein an initial

value of the first designation field in the partial setting screen indicates that a print attribute same as the entire print attribute is set. For example, according to Fig 6A of Perry, although “Plain” is displayed as a paper type, it is not disclosed that the value “Plain” is an initial value of the paper type setting. In addition, even if the value “Plain” set as a paper type is an initial value of the setting, it is not disclosed that the value “Plain” is set as the paper type in the entire print setting. Therefore, even if a value such as “Heavy paper” is set as an entire print setting in a system according to Perry, the value “Plain” is still displayed as the initial value of the paper type, as shown in Fig. 6A of Perry.

In light of the deficiencies of Perry as discussed above, Applicant submits that independent Claim 1 is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Claims 7, 11 and 13 are directed to an apparatus, a system and a computer-readable storage medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 7, 11 and 13 are also in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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